

21 AUG 1979

Dan:

1. The whole question of direct input by field stations into the automated Supply/Procurement system of the future evokes many questions. In my opinion these questions should be considered before we confront the field with anything. I realize we are only in a fact-finding quest but how good can the results be if we don't know ourselves what kind of a system to provide albeit, in general terms.

2. Questions for consideration include, but are not limited to:

a. To what extent will the OL system require a requested item be identified? Will items with a valid stock number be input directly to the system and bypass a suspense mechanism? If so, who will determine source for items with good stock numbers in the Federal System or the correct Federal Management Codes?

b. Who will arbitrate split items, substitutions, and other necessary changes?

c. How will items that affect Cog Office stock or controlled items be approved for issue? Do we intend to eliminate allocation controls and have single item managers?

d. Who in the Supply System will address cable bomb-outs, garbles, and other erroneous entries. I personally had problems in this area in OTS.

e. What kind of provision will be made for a back-up system when the automated system is down and a priority requirement exists?

f. What transactions will have priority? Will this determination be left to the computer based on the time and date received or will customers be identified with a priority classification, i.e., operational necessity, prime equipment down, re-supply, etc.?

g. Should we require the field to certify receipts of high priority shipments, presently 0 and 1? This feedback information would serve several purposes such as measurement of performance statistics and perhaps reduce these types of requests.

h. Would the field be required to provide budgetary certification? The present system of sending requisitions through Headquarters Budget Offices would be impractical.

i. How would one-line-item requisitions affect field operations? A direct input of field requests would automatically create a one-line-item system.

j. How will other requisitions from Headquarters elements be blended into the system? Will scanning equipment in 1980's be improved to the point of required reliability?

3. In my opinion these are two aspects to this question of direct input of requisitions by field elements:

a. Commo [REDACTED] in which trained Logisticians are employed.

b. DDO Stations in which no Logisticians are employed and the future possibility exists that no support personnel will be utilized.

4. The study being made by [REDACTED] appears to be aimed mainly at group a. In that case some questions to be answered by Commo [REDACTED] would be:

a. What will the affect of direct field input have on the large Headquarters contingents? We must consider the amount of work in identification and material management these groups now perform.

b. A computerized system of the magnitude we are considering will require much more standardization than our present systems. Will these organizations be willing to live by more stringent standards?

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5. I'm sure there are more questions, but these are some of the more important that [REDACTED] and I can think of.

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